REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the performance of a thorough search and for the indication of allowable subject matter. By this amendment, Claims 1, 5, 6, 12, 21-35, 37-41, 45-47, 49-52, 57-58, 60-61, 65-66, and 72 are amended, Claims 16, 36, 56, and 76 are cancelled, and no claims are added. Therefore, Claims 1-15, 17-35, 37-55, 57-75, and 77-80 are pending in the application.

The amendments to the claims as indicated herein do not add any new matter to this application. Furthermore, amendments made to the claims as indicated herein have been made to exclusively improve readability and clarity of the claims and not for the purpose of overcoming alleged prior art.

For example, computer-readable medium Claims 21-35 and 37-40 are amended to clarify that the instructions may be stored on more than one computer-readable medium, such as multiple CD-ROMs. Support for these changes may be found in the specification in paragraphs 65, 67, 69, and 70 and FIG. 10 (e.g., main memory 1006, ROM 1008, and storage device 1010).

As another example, apparatus Claims 41, 45-47, 49-52, 56-58, and 60 are amended to clarify that an apparatus may comprise one or more processors, not just a single processor. Support for these changes may be found in the originally filed computer-readable medium claims that recite that one or more processors may execute one or more sequences of instructions. Furthermore, it is well known in the art that an apparatus may comprise more than one processor to improve parallelism and/or throughput.

SUMMARY OF THE CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1-4, 8, 11-15, 19-24, 28, 31-35, 39-44, 48, 51-55, 59-64, 68, 71-75, 79, and 80

stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No.

2002/0097262 to Iwase et al. ("*Iwase*") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0195917 to

Horiyama et al. ("*Horiyama*").

CLAIMS 12, 32, 52, AND 72 ARE IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE

Claims 5-7, 9-10, 16-18, 25-27, 29-30, 36-38, 45-47, 49-50, 56-58, 65-67, 69-70, and 76-

78 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if

rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any

intervening claims.

Accordingly, objected Claim 16, which directly depends on independent Claim 12, is

incorporated into Claim 12. Objected Claim 36, which directly depends on independent Claim

32, is incorporated into Claim 32. Objected Claim 56, which directly depends on independent

Claim 52, is incorporated into Claim 52. Objected Claim 76, which directly depends on

independent Claim 72, is incorporated into Claim 72. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that

present Claims 12, 32, 52, and 72 are in condition for allowance, as well as all claims that depend

on present Claims 12, 32, 52, and 72, respectively.

CLAIMS 1, 21, 41, AND 61

The Office Action indicated that Claim 5 would be allowed if rewritten in independent

form. A portion of original Claim 5 is incorporated into independent Claim 1. Present Claim 1

now recites (with subject matter from original Claim 5 underlined):

A method for customizing one or more user interfaces, comprising:
transmitting user interface specification data to one or more multifunction
peripherals, wherein user interface specification data defines a desired
display and operation behavior for the one or more user interfaces, and
wherein each of the one or more user interfaces is displayed on one of the
one or more multifunction peripherals;
maintaining scheduling data that defines a start time that indicates a time to
update each of the one or more user interfaces to reflect the user interface
specification data;
determining the current time; and
if the current time is at least as recent as the start time, then updating the user
interface displayed on the one or more multifunction peripherals to reflect
the user interface specification data.

The portion of original Claim 5 that is not incorporated into Claim 1 is the transmitting

step and feature of the multifunction peripheral determining the current time. Based on the

Office Action and the cited art, the novelty and non-obviousness of Claim 5 do not seem to

depend on which particular device is performing the recited steps. Original Claim 1 does not

state which device is performing the maintaining step. As a result, in one embodiment, a

wireless device, for example (see Claim 2), could determine the current time, whereas in another

embodiment, the MFP determines the current time, as recited by Claim 5.

Furthermore, present Claim 1 recites numerous features that are not taught or suggested

by *Iwase* or *Horiyama*, either individually or in combination. For example, the Office Action (on

page 3) admits that *Iwase* does not describe "maintaining scheduling data that defines a start time

that indicates a time to update each of the one or more user interfaces to reflect the user interface

specification data." The Office Action then alleges that *Horiyama* "describes maintaining

scheduling data that includes start time that indicates a time **to update each of the one or more**

user interfaces (Figs. 7-13, and 16, par. 126)" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that

this is incorrect for at least two reasons.

First, *Horiyama* **fails to disclose or suggest the concept of user interfaces**. In fact, the only times "interface" is mentioned is when referring to an application programming interface (API) and a graphics device interface (GDI), which generates print data according to a command from an application (see paragraph 77).

Second, the cited paragraph of *Horiyama* discloses a "periodic update processing means." What is updated in *Horiyama* is **not** one or more user interfaces, but rather historical print information that is stored on a base server 1400 and acquired by an integrated server computer 1410 (see paragraphs 117 and 126-127). Based on the foregoing, *Horiyama* fails to teach or suggest "maintaining scheduling data that defines a start time that indicates a time to update each of the one or more user interfaces to reflect the user interface specification data," as recited in present Claim 1.

As another example, the Office Action cites paragraphs 11-15 of *Iwase* as allegedly disclosing "transmitting user interface specification data to one or more multifunction peripherals, wherein user interface specification data defines a desired display and operation behavior for the one or more user interfaces, and wherein each of the one or more user interfaces is displayed on one of the one or more multifunction peripherals," as recited in present Claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that this is incorrect.

Based on the cited paragraphs of *Iwase*, the Office Action is analogizing the "setting information" of *Iwase* with the "user interface specification data" of Claim 1. However, "setting information" cannot qualify as user interface specification data. User interface specification data, as expressly recited in Claim 1, "defines a desired display and operation behavior for one or more user interfaces," whereas the "setting information" of *Iwase* refers to the settings on an MFP. Examples of settings (according to paragraph 3 of *Iwase*) include a double-face printing mode, a

staple mode, a sort mode, and color tone. It is clear that such settings do **not** define "a desired display and operation behavior for one or more user interfaces." Additionally, *Iwase* actually uses the term "user interface" exactly twice – once in the Abstract and the second-to-last paragraph (i.e., 375) of the Description – indicating that setting information and user interfaces are two different things. Both references to "user interface" in *Iwase* actually **teach away** from the concept of updating a user interface of an MFP. They both recite that a user interface "is set" indicating that the user interface is not capable of being updated. In all, there is no concept in *Iwase* or *Horiyama* that the **user interface** of a multifunction peripheral **is updated**.

Based on the foregoing, because *Iwase* and *Horiyama* fail to teach or suggest numerous features of present Claim 1, present Claim 1 is patentable over the cited art.

Independent Claims 21, 41, and 61 include the same features discussed above for present Claim 1 that are lacking from *Iwase* and *Horiyama*, except that Claim 21 is in computer-readable media format and Claims 41 and 61 are in apparatus format. Therefore, Claims 21, 41, and 61 are allowable for the same reasons given above for present Claim 1.

CLAIMS 3, 23, 43, AND 63

Claims 3, 23, 43, and 63 depend on present Claims 1, 21, 41, and 61, respectively, and additionally recite "wherein the user interface specification data is transmitted from an origin multifunctional peripheral." The Office Action cites Figures 1-6 and paragraphs 11-15 of *Iwase* as allegedly disclosing this feature. It is respectfully submitted that this is incorrect. Figures 1-4 simply illustrate different constructions of an image processing system. Figures 5 and 6 illustrate different connection methods between a portable telephone and a MFP. Even if it is assumed that "setting information" is equivalent to "user interface specification data," the entire *Iwase*

reference fails to teach or suggest that user interface specification data is transmitted **from one**

multifunction peripheral *to another* **multifunction peripheral.** Figures 1 and 2 both illustrate

a single MFP. Furthermore, none of the MFPs of Figures 3-6 send **any information** to another

MFP. Finally, *Horiyama* is not cited for teaching this feature of Claims 3, 23, 43, and 63.

Therefore, based on the foregoing, *Iwase* and *Horiyama* fail to teach or suggest that "user

interface specification data is transmitted from an original multifunction peripheral"

REMAINING DEPENDENT CLAIMS

Each of the remaining dependent claims not discussed so far depends directly or

indirectly on one of the independent claims that include the features listed above for present

Claim 1. Therefore, each of the dependent claims is patentable over the *Iwase* and *Horiyama*

references for the same reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 1. In addition, each of the

dependent claims features other subject matter that independently renders them patentable over

Iwase and *Horiyama.* However, due to the fundamental differences already identified, to

expedite the positive resolution of this case a separate discussion of those limitations is not

included at this time.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages or credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

Hickman Palermo Truong & Becker LLP

Dated: February 21, 2007

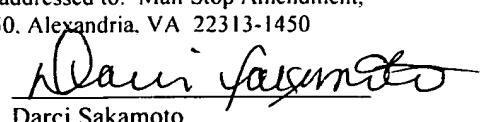Daniel D. Ledesma
Reg. No. 57,181

2055 Gateway Place, Suite 550
San Jose, CA 95110-1089
Telephone: (408) 414-1229
Fax: (408) 414-1076

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents. P. O. Box 1450. Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on 2/21/07 by _____
Darci Sakamoto